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A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

February/March 1993

Volume 11, Number 1

Sustainable Agriculture Economic Impact Study Moves Ahead

During the past year and a half, ERS economists guided the sustainable agriculture economic impact study through the planning stages and, together with researchers at six land-grant universities, began implementation. The study is funded by USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency's "Agriculture in Concert with the Environment" program at about \$1 million over 3 years. The project is administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research Service Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. Gregory Gajewski and Linda Calvin (219-0888) are coordinating the project.

The goal of the study is to develop a framework that can generate estimates of the economic, environmental, and social effects of shifting to a more sustainable agriculture on the farm or ranch, local, regional, national, and international levels. However, not enough is known about what switching to a more sustainable agriculture means on the farm or ranch level to support analysis on a more aggregate level. About 75 percent of the study funds are going to six land-grant universities to focus on estimating the farm- or ranch-level effects of shifting to a more sustainable agriculture in specific rural areas. These projects are quite diverse, but researchers will provide estimates of a common

ERS To Launch New Report on Industrial Uses

Industrial Uses of Agricultural Materials is a new biannual ERS situation and outlook report to be released in June and December. The report is part of USDA's effort to develop and promote new industrial uses of farm products. ERS economists Gregory Gajewski, Lewrene Glaser, Douglas Beach, and William Moore are preparing the report. Major support is being provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies, Conservation, and Renewable Energy; USDA's Cooperative State Research Service; the Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization Center; and USDA's Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Office of Energy.

USDA is leading a public/private program of research, development, and demonstration to develop and get into the marketplace new uses of agricultural materials. Products being developed include fuels, biodegradable polymers and packing materials, biopesticides, industrial lubricants, coatings, newsprint, inks, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, road deicers, and natural additives for cosmetics and fragrances.

The new series will supply economic intelligence to people involved in the research, development, production, processing, marketing, and policy aspects of taking agricultural materials from the farmgate through the industrial marketplace. ERS' goal is to use rigorous analysis, evaluation, and forecasting techniques to provide researchers and decisionmakers with the economic information needed to develop new industrial uses of agricultural materials.

The report will focus on agricultural materials, as well as their major substitutes and complements, in seven categories: starches and carbohydrates; fats, oils, and waxes; fibers; animal products; forest products; natural plant products; and natural rubber and vegetable proteins. Industrial uses of both new and traditional agricultural outputs will be covered. The report will also cover the processing of agricultural materials from the farmgate through the various manufacturing stages to the end use; national and international aspects, including the outlook for the macroeconomy and key industrial sectors, and how they relate to the outlook for agriculturally based industrial products; and estimates of the impact on nonrenewable energy markets.



In recent years, the names and activities relating to developing a more representative workforce have changed from "equal employment opportunity" to "affirmative action" to "workforce diversity." In changing the names, we have also changed our approaches and even, to some degree, our understanding of the final goals. In the letter excerpted below, Pat Browne, ERS' Civil Rights Manager, lays out her understanding of the changes and what they mean for our workforce diversity efforts in ERS. Her comments are thought provoking and helpful for all of us as we think about what kind of workplace we want ERS to be.

In the nearly 30 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we have become familiar with the language and concepts of equal employment opportunity (EEO) and affirmative action (AA). These concepts have been critical to changes in the culture and in the workplace and will continue to play a crucial role. However, as a culture, we are in the midst of a fundamental shift from EEO and AA to the more inclusive and challenging model of cultural diversity or valuing diversity. I believe this fundamental shift goes much deeper than changing the words we use to describe our work and our commitment.

EEO is based on the principle of equality that this country was founded on and has struggled to make real with varying degrees of success. EEO admonishes us to be blind to differences; to assure that everyone is treated equitably by ignoring differences. EEO legislation, from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through the Civil Rights Act of 1991, provides a recourse for fighting against racism and prejudice. Affirmative action provides a vehicle for rectifying inequities resulting from past discrimination.

EEO and AA have been at least partially successful in raising awareness, in making the workforce somewhat more representative of the civilian labor force, and in providing redress in cases of overt discrimination. However, EEO and AA have also necessarily been pre-occupied with numbers, progress reports, and complaints of discrimination. Although they will continue to be necessary, EEO and AA are artificial interventions that cannot begin to cope with the long-term task of creating a truly diverse workforce. Furthermore, EEO and AA have often remained tangential to the "real" work and mission of most organizations, and have even been blamed for compromising mission for the sake of a laudable, but in some people's view essentially irrelevant, moral cause. Also, EEO and AA have mostly ignored white men who often saw the initiatives as threatening, or at least as having nothing to do with them.

ERS Newsletter

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ERS Alumni Notes

[We invite ERS alumni to write to us at the address on this page about what they or other alumni are doing, where they are living, etc.]

ERS retiree Marie Harmon died December 20 in Fairfield, PA.

EEO and AA have not adequately addressed the challenge of creating an environment in which differences are not only tolerated but valued, not in a vacuum but for the contribution they enable employees to make to the mission of the organization. Although EEO and AA have helped to create a diverse workforce, cultural diversity should support and nurture that work force to maximize its potential.

Roosevelt Thomas, executive director of the American Institute for Managing Diversity at Morehouse College and a preeminent spokesperson for cultural diversity, has outlined several significant shifts in action and perception necessary for an organization to evolve from a focus on EEO and AA to an emphasis on valuing diversity. Following are two of the most essential changes necessary:

1. Clarify motivation and vision. We should not value diversity because it is a legal requirement or even primarily because it benefits women and ethnic minorities. The motivation we should have is to manage human resources to take full advantage of differences, ensuring that no potential is lost. The vision we are seeking is an environment in which everyone is included in “we” and which supports and nurtures every individual in doing his or her best work.

2. Extend focus. Although EEO and AA had little to do with white men, valuing diversity includes and benefits everyone. When we truly value diversity, we recognize that white men are also different and unique among themselves and that white-men stereotypes are no less degrading when applied to them than when stereotypes are applied to other groups. Furthermore, cultural diversity includes not only race and gender, but also differences in creed, ethnicity, age, class, sexual orientation, background, education, values, and personality differences. Everyone’s story, struggle, and contribution are of value.

Cultural diversity should be seen, not as a peripheral concern, but as integral to the mission of ERS. The goal is to create an environment that respects, values, and uses the differences of all people in pursuing a common goal. John Lee’s and Kitty Reichelderfer’s letters in the past two issues of this newsletter speak exactly to this issue and give us a very clear framework for the challenge we face—creating an environment where we can all belong while at the same time celebrating and drawing upon our differences to accomplish the mission of ERS.

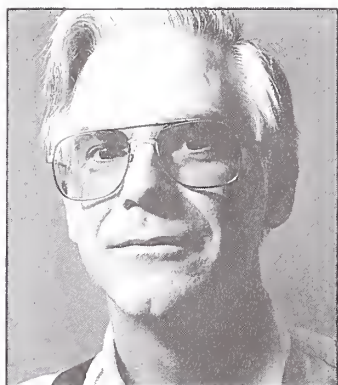
The whole picture of what a truly multicultural work place will be like is not yet fully drawn or imagined. Valuing diversity is still new; we are feeling our way, creating as we go along. This collaborative effort needs us all, and yet is somewhat intangible, interior, and subtle. It is a tremendous challenge, but well worth the effort and the risk of stretching our zones of comfort, both individually and as an organization.

Thanks, Pat. You have indeed given us some food for thought.


John Lee



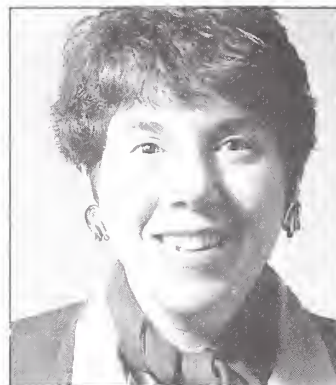
Ahearn



Carlin



Harrington



Anderson

Ahearn Is Executive Assistant to the Associate Administrator

Mary Ahearn has filled the newly created ERS position of executive assistant to the associate administrator in the Office of the Administrator. Ahearn will assist the administrator and associate administrator in directing and coordinating the overall administration and execution of ERS policies and programs. For example, her assignments will include coordinating multidivisional committees and development of an agency personnel training policy.

Ahearn joined ERS in 1978 and worked on rural development, with an emphasis on the health status of rural residents and the availability and adequacy of rural health personnel and facilities. During 1980-83, she was at the Western Rural Development Center in Corvallis, Oregon, where she worked in the areas of rural health care and valuing nonmarket goods and services, including publicly provided services.

Since returning to Washington in 1983, Ahearn has worked on farm sector issues such as farm structure, income distribution, off-farm income, farm operator household well-being, costs of production, and economy of size. Her responsibilities have included contributions to the estimation and development

of the farm income and costs of production accounts and ERS' Farm Costs and Returns Survey database. During 1988-90, Ahearn was leader of the Farm Costs and Returns Section. Since 1991, she has been leader of the Farm Firm and Household Well-Being Section.

Ahearn has a B.S. in food and resource economics from the University of Florida, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from Oregon State University. Ahearn has received four ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards, two for equal employment opportunity and civil rights work, one for farm finance work, and one for staff analysis.

Carlin Is New ARED Deputy Director

Thomas Carlin was recently named Deputy Director for Agriculture, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division. He is responsible for coordinating the agricultural components of ARED's staff analysis and research program.

Carlin joined ERS' National Economic Analysis Division in 1971. From 1974 to 1985, he was leader of the Income Studies Section. During 1985-86, he was leader of the Farm Family Income Section. Since October 1986, Carlin has been chief

of the Farm and Rural Economy Branch.

Carlin has published research on a wide range of topics in agriculture and rural development. His publications cover such subjects as farm structure, farm policy, the distribution of farm and rural household income, rural poverty, distributive effects of rural employment growth, impacts of welfare reform on rural people and places, effects of Federal income tax provisions on farmers, and farm sector economic accounting. He has served on USDA's State Food Stamp Appeals Board and on numerous task forces and committees.

Carlin has B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University. He has received four USDA Certificates of Merit for program planning and management.

Harrington Is New ARED Branch Chief

David Harrington has resumed the position of chief, Farm and Rural Economy Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, a position he held during 1979-86. He is responsible for conducting a program of research on the structure of the farm sector,



Hrubovcak

agriculture and community linkages, and agricultural labor issues.

Harrington first joined ERS in 1964 as a field employee of the Resource Development Economics Division (a predecessor to both ARED and RTD) in Durham, NH. From there he went first to Ithaca, NY, and then to Lafayette, IN, with the Farm Production Economics Division. In 1973, Harrington left ERS for Agriculture Canada, where he served as a dairy policy analyst, as assistant director of the economics research division, and as executive director of CANFARM (Canada's national farm management information service). When CANFARM was cut from the Federal budget in 1978, he successfully led an effort to sell the service, its software, and client base to the private sector to continue management and accounting services to Canadian farmers.

In 1979, Harrington returned to ERS as chief, Farm and Rural Economy Branch. During 1987-92, he was deputy director for agriculture, ARED.

Harrington has authored over 65 publications on mathematical programming models, structure of agriculture, and analysis of agricultural policy in the United States and Canada.

Harrington has a B.S. from Cornell University in agricultural engineering, an M.S. from the

University of New Hampshire in resource economics, and a Ph.D. from Purdue University in agricultural economics. Harrington received four American Agricultural Economics Association awards for best Ph.D. thesis, Quality of Communication (two), and Outstanding Policy Contribution. He has received three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards and an ERS Excellence Award for research.

Anderson Is New RTD Deputy Director

Margot Anderson has been named deputy director for policy research and staff analysis, Resources and Technology Division. She previously served as leader, Resource and International Policy Section.

Since joining ERS in 1987, Anderson has conducted research on the resource effects of agricultural policy reform, international technology transfer, comparative advantage in agriculture, and robust measures of variability.

Anderson's work has been published in *Applied Economics*, *International Economic Review*, and the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, as well as in ERS publications. She recently coedited *Economic Issues in Global Change: Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources*. Anderson has served on the ERS/EEO committee and currently serves on several committees including the ERS Reference Center Committee.

Anderson has a B.A. in economics from the University of Cincinnati and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois. She has received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding research.

Hrubovcak Is New RTD Energy Coordinator

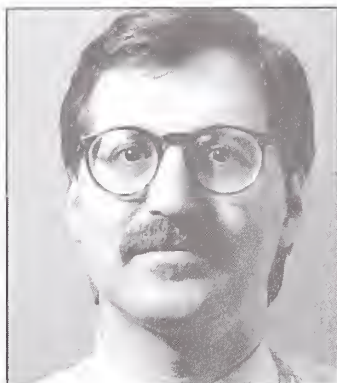
James Hrubovcak was recently named energy coordinator, a newly established senior economist position, Resource Policy Branch, Resources and Technology Division. He will coordinate research on economic and environmental issues surrounding alternative energy sources such as ethanol. Hrubovcak is co-coordinating a series of agricultural information bulletins across ERS on topics such as the economics associated with emerging technologies in ethanol production; the environmental effects of added ethanol use; the agricultural impacts and rural employment impacts of added ethanol production; and the trade impacts of added ethanol coproducts. He was the ERS representative on the Economic Analysis Work Group for the development of a USDA biofuels action plan. He has been the USDA/ERS representative on two National Energy Strategy working groups: Energy Security/Alternative Fuels and Biomass Energy Supply.

Since joining ERS in 1980, Hrubovcak has worked on Federal income tax issues, agricultural investment, ethanol, the impacts of commodity programs on agricultural resource use, and limitations in evaluating environmental and agricultural policy coordination benefits. His work has been published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Applied Economics*, the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*.

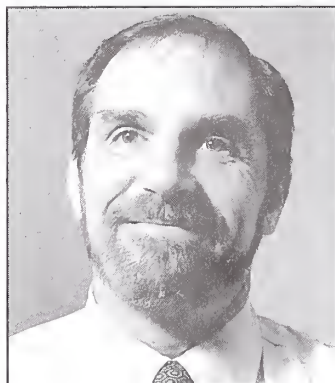
Hrubovcak has a B.S. in environmental resource management, a B.A. in economics, and an M.A. in economics from



Blaylock



Koopman



Kelch



Dyck

Pennsylvania State University. He has completed all the requirements except the dissertation toward a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University. Hrubovcak was corecipient of the American Agricultural Economics Association's Quality of Research Discovery Award. He has received a USDA Superior Service Award, an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for excellence in research, and an ERS Excellence Award for research.

Blaylock Is New Branch Chief in CED

James Blaylock has been named chief, Food Economics Branch, Commodity Economics Division. He joined ERS in 1979 to work on the economic determinants of household food consumption patterns. Blaylock was appointed to a senior economist position in the Food Consumption and Demand Research Section in 1986 and became section leader in 1990.

Blaylock has conducted numerous research and policy studies on generic promotion, household characteristics and food choices, analysis of the Food Stamp Program, food spending and income distribution, and food security issues. He has authored or coauthored numerous articles and reports, including chapters in books,

USDA monographs, and journal articles on food demand and related issues. He is coeditor of the *Journal of Agricultural Economics Research* and is active in interagency and regional research committees.

Blaylock has a B.A. in economics from Sacramento State College and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California (Davis). He has received three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for outstanding research.

Koopman Is New ATAD Branch Chief

Robert Koopman was recently named chief, Europe Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. Koopman was previously leader of the Central and East European Section. He joined ERS in 1984, as an economist in the then-U.S.S.R. Section. He worked in the Regional Policy and Information Section in the Agricultural and Trade Policy Branch prior to becoming leader of the Central and East European Section.

Koopman has authored numerous papers on the technical and allocative efficiency of centrally planned economies, particularly on the Soviet agricultural sector, and on the possible effects of economic reform in the former east bloc on world agricultural markets. He has

helped prepare estimates of producer subsidy equivalents (PSE's) and consumer subsidy equivalents (CSE's) for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and reviewed PSE and CSE estimates for developed countries. He also participated in ATAD's U.S.-EC GATT analysis task force.

Koopman has a B.S. in economics from the University of Southern Maine and a Ph.D. in economics from Boston College. He has received three USDA Certificates of Merit: one for sustained effort to analyze reform of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy and other GATT issues, one for organizing a program of orientation for future Central European and Soviet leaders in agricultural economics, and one for helping develop a world trade liberalization model. Koopman also received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding situation and outlook work.

Kelch Is New ATAD Section Leader

David Kelch is the new leader, Policy and Market Integration Section, Europe Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. He will be responsible for analyzing the trade effects of agricultural policy



Shapouri

changes in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Kelch's recent research has focused on analyses of GATT scenarios on EC production, consumption, and trade, and the potential trade effects of EC enlargement to include other Western and Central European countries.

In 1977, Kelch joined ERS' Foreign Demand and Competition Branch, International Economics Division. He moved to the Western Europe Branch in 1979. In 1983, he went to the Food and Agricultural Organization, where he monitored and analyzed the effects of the agricultural policies of the OECD countries on trade. During 1984-87, he served as the official FAO observer to the OECD Committee for Agriculture. In 1987, Kelch returned to ERS' Europe Section, Developed Market Economies Branch. He moved to the newly organized Europe Branch in 1992, where he served as the leader of the EC-1992 working group and as a member of the GATT task force on EC analysis.

Kelch served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chile from 1965-67, and headed the University of Kentucky summer school in Mexico program during 1972-75. He has lectured at various universities and institutes in the Washington area, authored numerous USDA monographs and research articles for professional journals, and

presented papers in Canada, Spain, Italy, and France, as well as in the United States.

Kelch has a B.A. in political science from Southern Illinois University, an M.A. in Spanish and Latin American studies from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky. Kelch received three USDA Certificates of Merit, one for analysis of the EC in the GATT negotiations, one for leadership on the EC-1992 project, and one for analysis of CAP Reform and GATT proposals.

Dyck Is Named ATAD Section Leader

John Dyck has been named leader, East Asia and Oceania Section, Asia and Pacific Rim Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. Since coming to ERS in 1979, Dyck has been a regional analyst for the Asia and Pacific region where his research focused on studying the supply and demand for agricultural products in some of the United States' largest agricultural markets and in the competing exporting countries of Oceania.

Before coming to ERS, Dyck worked as a high school teacher in rural U.S. schools and as an English teacher in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan.

Dyck's research has focused on the ongoing dietary changes in East Asia; the structural change in agriculture in Northeast Asia; and the Pacific livestock and rice markets. He has worked on the ERS baseline process and projecting future demand, supply, and trade levels for major commodities on a country-by-country basis. Dyck has also researched consumer demand for foods, especially the demand for meats in Japan and Korea;

estimated a complete demand system for foods in Japan using a multilevel budgeting structure; and examined the shift away from small-scale rice farming in East Asia and its consequences for the region's rice markets.

Dyck has an A.B. in history from Harvard College, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University, and is completing a Ph.D. dissertation at Cornell University. He also studied at Göttingen University in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship. Dyck has received two ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards, one for preparing for an agricultural mission to Thailand, and one for exemplary performance as a country analyst. He was also corecipient of an ERS Excellence Award for situation and outlook reporting.

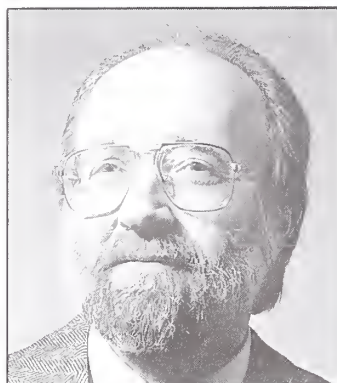
Shapouri Is New ATAD Section Leader

Shahla Shapouri has been named leader, Sub-Saharan Africa Section, Africa and Middle East Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division, where she will be responsible for examining the economic factors affecting agricultural markets in the region and coordinating the *Global Food Assessment* report.

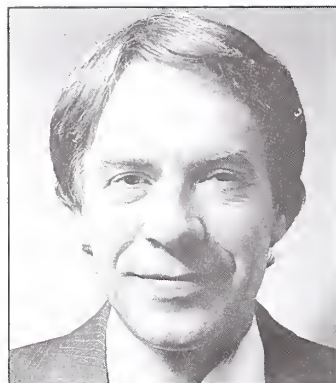
In 1979, Shapouri joined the Africa and Middle East Branch in ERS' then-International Economics Division to work on economics issues related to the region. Her area of research included analysis of supply and demand and trade relationships, and the linkages of macroeconomic factors to the agricultural sector. During 1982-87, Shapouri managed the livestock portion of a major ERS-Egyptian data collection and analysis project funded by U.S. AID. Since 1988, she has conducted research on



Foster



Vollrath



Magiera

supply and demand for food aid and its effectiveness in improving food security of the low-income food-deficit countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, in the Developing Economies and Africa and Middle East Branches.

Shapouri has authored numerous ERS monographs. She has worked closely with other agencies including U.S. AID, FAO, World Food Council, and African government and academic institutions. She was responsible for drafting the 5-year development plan for Lesotho's Ministry of Agriculture.

Shapouri has a B.A. in economics from the University of Tehran, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Washington State University. She has received a USDA Superior Service Award for leading a study of food problems and prospects in sub-Saharan Africa and an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding research.

Foster Is New ATAD Section Leader

Christian Foster was recently named leader, Former Soviet Union Section, Europe Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. Foster returned to ERS after work-

ing for Bell Atlantic International as director for business development in the former U.S.S.R. during 1990-92. While in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kiev, he directed Bell Atlantic's joint venture negotiations. Foster first joined ERS' Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R. Branch in 1984. In 1987, he became leader of the U.S.S.R. section's grain and oilseed situation and outlook work. During 1982-84, Foster was an Eastern Europe economist at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Foster has authored or coauthored numerous articles and papers, including USDA monographs on the former U.S.S.R.'s grain, oilseed, and livestock sectors. He has conducted staff analyses and presented papers on Soviet grain import demand to various audiences.

Foster has a B.S. in Foreign Service and an M.A. in Russian and East European studies, both from Georgetown University. He has also studied at Leningrad State University. He has received two ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards and a USDA Certificate of Merit for superior analysis of Soviet agriculture and trade.

Vollrath Is New ATAD Section Leader

Thomas Vollrath has been named leader, Market Potential and

Competition Section, Markets and Competition Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division, where he will be responsible for investigating market potential by identifying the determinants of import demand for U.S. agricultural exports; studying the changing commodity structure of agricultural trade; and examining ways to reconcile data problems with the U.N. bilateral trade database.

In 1977, Vollrath joined ERS' then-Foreign Demand and Competition Division to work on international comparative costs of production. During 1980-87, he was in the Agriculture Development Branch, where his research focused on trade and development issues. Since 1987, Vollrath has been in the Developing Economies and the Markets and Competition Branches, where his research has focused on special-and-differential treatment as it applies to developing countries and on the changing patterns of global trade in agricultural commodities.

Vollrath's research has been widely published in USDA monographs and outside sources including, *Diagnostic Indexes of U.S. Bilateral Trade* (TB-1812) and a forthcoming coauthored article, "Real Exchange Rate Misalignment and Agricultural Export Performance in Developing Countries" in *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

Vollrath has a B.A. in economics from the University of the South and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Tennessee.

Magiera Is New ATAD Branch Chief

Stephen Magiera has been named chief, Trade and Development Analysis Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. Magiera first joined ERS in 1977 to work on ERS' outlook and information system. Prior to that, he was the manager of macroeconomic forecasting at Economic Models, in London, England. In 1980, Magiera became

leader of the Western Europe Branch where he conducted staff work and research on U.S. and EC trade issues. In 1986, he worked on the Ministerial Trade Mandate at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France.

Magiera returned to ERS in 1987 as leader of the Agricultural Trade Policy Branch where he worked on issues related to the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. In 1988, he led two task forces for the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium, was co-organizer for IATRC's Annapolis conference on GATT, and was detailed part-time to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In 1990, he directed a study on

"Multilateral Trade Reform: What the GATT Negotiations Mean to U.S. Agriculture" for Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter. Over the past year, Magiera has been a senior economist and acting branch chief for the Europe Branch, where he directed ERS' EC-GATT task force for the Uruguay Round.

Magiera has a B.S. in engineering mathematics and an M.S. in industrial engineering operations research, both from the University of California (Berkeley). He has received three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for outstanding GATT analytical support and a USDA Superior Service Award for GATT analytic support.

Highlights of Staff Activities

Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

At the North American meeting of the Regional Science Association International, in Chicago, IL, **Andy Bernat** presented a paper, "Regional Differences in Manufacturing Productivity"; **Robert Gibbs** presented a paper, "Postmigration Earnings: Do Origins Really Matter?"; and **Michael Lahr** presented two papers, "Sectoral Aggregation Error in Regional Input-Output Models: Some Empirical Evidence" and "An Algorithm for Producing Hybrid Regional Input-Output Tables" • **Lahr** also represented ERS at an interagency working group at the Immigration and Naturalization Service to discuss the means of estimating the economic impacts of approving up to 10,000 visas each fiscal year to qualified alien entrepreneurs as designated in the Immigration Act of 1990 • **Susan**

Bentley provided technical assistance to the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Technology and Family Farm Institute's 1992 Wisconsin family farm survey, in Madison, WI • **Michael Compson** and **Ron Durst** participated in a National Bureau of Economic Research conference on tax policy and the economy, in Washington, DC • **David Harrington**, **Neal Peterson**, **Donn Reimund**, and **Leslie Whitener** participated in a meeting of cooperators for the U.S.-Canadian comparative study of the structure of agriculture, in Washington, DC • **John Redman** participated in a conference to publicize the release of the second Cuomo Commission report and to discuss the Clinton administration's economic agenda, in Washington, DC • **Richard Reeder** participated in a thinkers session to provide

input into the research planning process of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, in Washington, DC • **Thomas Rowley** and **David Sears** participated in the President's Initiative on Rural America annual leadership retreat, in Warm Springs, OR • **Sears** also participated in a meeting at Aspen Institute on funding a business assistance research program • **Sears** also spoke on ERS' sustainable development research with faculty at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, OR • **Patrick Sullivan** participated in a Southern Rural Development Center Board of Directors' meeting, in Tallahassee, FL • and **Arthur Wiese** participated in a general equilibrium modeling conference, in Waterloo, ON.

Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

At a Southern Agricultural Economic Association meeting, in Tulsa, OK, **Terry Disney** presented a paper, "Potential Influence of NAFTA on the Southern Beef Sector," and organized and participated in a symposium, "Impacts of Evolving Trade Policy on Southern Livestock Production"; **Gene Mathia** organized and moderated a symposium on African food problems; **Linda Scott** and **Stacey Rosen** presented a paper, "Roots of and Solutions to African Food Problems"; and **Mark Peters** and **Disney** presented a paper, "A Shrinking Window of Trade for Corn Gluten Feed: Implications for U.S. Crop and Livestock Production" • **Disney** also conferred with researchers at Oklahoma State University regarding Mexican imports of feeder cattle • **Harry Baumes** led a U.S. delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France, for a series of meetings involving the Committee for Agriculture, the working party on Agricultural Policies and Markets, and the Joint Working Party of the Agriculture and Trade Committee • at the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference at Tuskegee University, in Tuskegee, AL, **Samuel Calhoun** gave a presentation on ERS data products at a preconference workshop on data retrieval and he and **Renata Penn** participated in the

conference • at an Allied Social Science Associations meeting, in Anaheim, CA, **Nancy Cochrane** presented a paper, "Central European Agrarian Reforms in a Historical Perspective: Are There Lessons to be Learned From the Past?"; **Daniel Pick** presented a paper, "NAFTA, Agriculture, and the Environment in Mexico"; and **William Liefert** was a discussant for a paper panel on economic restructuring in the former U.S.S.R. • **Cochrane** also traveled to Bulgaria to train researchers and managers on analysis and reporting on agricultural commodities as part of the ERS institution building project • **Larry Deaton** assisted GATT negotiators in Geneva, Switzerland, on topics related to Japan's current agricultural and trade policies and negotiating strategies • **Kenneth Forsythe** presented a seminar on the economic costs and benefits of selected alternative nonchemical import quarantine treatments at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, MN • **Susan Leetmaa** led a discussion on agricultural reform in Poland and other Central and East European countries at the University of Delaware, in Wilmington, DE • **Carol Levin** traveled to the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Philippines, to collect information and work with researchers on Vietnam's agricultural sector

• **Levin** also traveled to Hué, Vietnam, to participate in a meeting of the Vietnamese Agro-Forestry Economic Science Association • **Carl Mabbs-Zeno** presented a paper, "Environmental Policy Reform in Zambia" and **Mabbs-Zeno**, Mesfin Bezuneh (Clark Atlanta University), **Barry Krissoff**, and **John Chirwa** (former ERS intern) presented a paper, "The Preferential Trade Agreement of Eastern and Southern Africa: An Empirical Assessment," at the African Studies Association meeting, in Seattle, WA • **Gene Mathia** represented ERS and **Suchada Langley** spoke on the status of the North American Free Trade Agreement at a joint meeting of the S-224 regional research committee on trade of Southern agricultural products and the international trade joint task force, in Redington Beach, FL • **Robert Reinsel** edited *Managing Food Security in Unregulated Markets*, recently published by Westview Press • **Reinsel** and **Thomas Tice** traveled to Poland to help officials analyze alternative price stability programs for wheat, rye, and milk in part as a training program for Polish economists • and **Lloyd Teigen** completed his LEGIS Fellows assignment on Capitol Hill during which he worked on special projects concerning agriculture and the budget for Congressman Charles Stenholm (D-TX).

Commodity Economics Division

Karen Ackerman spoke on the Export Enhancement Program at a U.S. Feed Grains Council task force meeting of barley growers, in Washington, DC • **James Cole** presented two papers, "Hay and Alfalfa Situation and Outlook" and "The Export Outlook for Alfalfa," at a California/Arizona alfalfa symposium, in Holtville, CA

• **Mack Leath** presented a paper, "U.S. Wheat Quality: Perceptions from Buyers in Foreign Countries" at an elevator business conference sponsored by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, in Stillwater, OK • **Kenneth Nelson** served on a Packers and Stockyards Administration panel to review research plans for six contract

studies on packer concentration, in Washington, DC • **Peter Riley** spoke on ERS' analysis of longer term developments in the world feed grain market at a U.S. Feed Grains Council meeting, in Washington, DC • **Fred Ruppel** organized and moderated a session on transportation issues in lesser developed countries and presented

a paper, "Countertrade and Food Aid in Support of Structural Adjustment and Free Market Transitions," at a transportation

research forum, in St. Louis, MO • and **Ruppel** also presented the same paper at an S-224 regional research committee meeting on

international trade in commodities and products important to the southern region, in Redington Beach, FL.

Resources and Technology Division

At the Allied Social Science Associations meetings, in Anaheim, CA, **Nicole Ballenger** moderated a session on "Trade Agreements, Agriculture, and the Environment in Developing Countries"; **Ram Chandran** presented a paper, "Sustainability, Growth, and Equity: Issues Related to Development Policy Strategies for India"; **Zena Cook** presented a paper, "A Theoretical Analysis of the Two Dominant Methods of Experience Rating"; **Kelly Eakin** presented a paper, "Union Algebra: Unionization, Productivity, and Labor Intensity Restrictions"; **Knox Lovell** (University of North Carolina), presented a paper, "Incorporating Undesirable Outputs into Models of Production: An Application to U.S.

Agriculture" (coauthored with **Eldon Ball**, **Richard Nehring**, and **Agapi Somwaru** (DSC)); and **John Reilly** presented a paper, "Climate Change and Agriculture: The Role of International Trade" (coauthored with **Neil Hohmann**) • **Chandran** presented a paper, "Stochastic Dominance Analysis of Yield Distributions of Vegetable Crops: Results from a Vegetable Chemical Use Survey" at the Southeast Asia meeting of the Econometric Society, in Bombay, India • **Chandran** also discussed sustainable agriculture with researchers in Madras and Delhi • at the 1993 Beltwide Cotton Conference meeting, in New Orleans, LA, **Walter Ferguson** presented a paper, "Cotton Yield Risk, and Participation in

Commercial Scouting Programs" (coauthored with **Jet Yee**); and **Martin Shields** presented a paper, "The Relationship between Cropping Patterns and Insecticide Use in Cotton Production" (coauthored with **Stan Daberkow**) • **Kenneth Richards** discussed dynamic considerations in the creation of a large-scale carbon sequestration at a carbon offsets forum sponsored by the Center for Clean Air Policy, in Washington, DC • and **Gene Wunderlich** discussed agriculture and open space taxation at a land value taxation conference sponsored by the Government Law Center of the University of Albany, in Albany, NY.

Office of the Administrator

Joseph Braxton and **Paul E. Flaim** participated in an Americans with Disabilities Act Conference, in Virginia Beach, VA • and **Jim Horsfield** participated in a

conference on using the Internet/ NREN for Improving Access to and Use of Government Information, in Washington, DC.

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE from p. 1

set of indicators. These estimates, along with data from other sources, will serve as inputs to a regional or national modeling framework. The remaining study funds will support building that framework.

The 3-year study was designed by a 16-member standing committee of economists and agronomists from ERS, EPA, Resources for the Future, and several land-grant universities. The committee, together with the lead researchers from the individual projects, make up the study's board of directors. The board is responsible for meeting the study's goals and keeping the research on track.

The six farm- or ranch-level studies were selected by the standing committee through a competitive bidding process. The lead researchers of the projects selected are Douglas Young (Washington State University); Susan Capalbo (Montana State University); Daryll Ray (University of Tennessee); Erik Lichtenberg (University of Maryland); Marvin Batte (Ohio State University); and Glenn Helmers (University of Nebraska). Daryll Ray was also

selected to do the regional- or national-level analysis.

ERS Staff Participate in International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium Meeting

ERS staff participated in the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium meeting in St. Petersburg, FL, December 13-15. The IATRC is a consortium of government, university, and private-sector trade research economists which meets regularly to exchange information and research results on current and emerging trade policy issues affecting agriculture.

At a session chaired by Jerry Sharples on "Agricultural Trade and the Environment," Roy Darwin presented a paper, "Modeling Climate Change and Agricultural Trade with a CGE Model" (coauthored with Jan Lewandrowski, Bradley McDonald, and Marinos Tsigas); Denice Gray presented a paper, "Global Environmental Policies: An Inventory with Emphasis on Agricultural Inputs"; Barry Krissoff

presented a paper, "Trade Agreements and Incentives for Environmental Quality in Western Hemisphere Agriculture" (coauthored with Nicole Ballenger and Rachel Beattie); Dale Leuck presented a paper, "Impact of the Nitrate Directive on EC Livestock Production"; Peter Liapis presented a paper, "Potential EC Environmental Policies and Implications on Resource Use"; and Bradley McDonald presented a paper, "Modeling Inputs Policy Using the Value Added Model."

At another session, Stephen Haley and Deborah Vivien (University of Missouri) spoke on the economic impacts of EC and U.S. sugar policy reform. Bob Robinson chaired a panel on the North American Free Trade Agreement, where representatives from USDA, the Agricultural National Council of Mexico, and the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture discussed key elements of the agreement and implications for their respective countries. Robert Koopman also organized a theme-day session on "European Reconfiguration: Implications for Agricultural Trade."